

Docket No: KADAN-2
Appl. No: 10/827,112

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of August 1, 2005.

Claims 15-24 and 29-33 are pending in the application. Claims 15, 20, and 24 have been amended. Claims 18, 19, and 32 have been canceled. Claims 15-17, 20-24, 29-31, and 33 remain in this application.

Claims 15, 16, 19-23, 29-31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,255,608 to Kawata et al. (hereinafter "Kawata")

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawata in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,400,672 to Bottelson (hereinafter "Bottelson")

Claims 24 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawata in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,527,849 to Marach (hereinafter "Marach")

Claims 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawata in view of Marach, and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,611,876 to Barrabès (hereinafter "Barrabès")

It is noted with appreciation that claim 18 is indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The rejection of claim 15 has been overcome by amending the claim to incorporate the subject matter of allowed claim 18. Amended claim 15 is therefore allowable over the prior art of record.

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Claim 20 has been amended to more clearly recite that the shielding element is formed as one-piece substantially on the lateral exterior surface of the housing in a region proximate to the terminal, wherein the shielding element is offset from the lateral exterior housing surface towards the inside of the housing by a distance that prevents the shielding element from contacting an adjacent shielding element of another switching device placed adjacent to the switching device. Kawata's shielding element (2b) referred to in the office action is not formed as one-piece substantially on the lateral exterior surface of the housing, and is not offset from the lateral exterior housing surface towards the inside of the housing. Instead, Kawata's element (2b) is a partition wall disposed in the interior of the upper cover (2). The shielding element (3, 4) of the present invention corresponds to the Kawata's side wall (2a), which is not offset from the lateral exterior housing surface.

Claim 20 is therefore also patentable over the prior art of record.

Previously independent claim 24 has been rewritten and now depend from presumably allowable claim 20.

For the reasons set forth above, it is Applicant's contention that neither Kawata, nor any of the other cited references, teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as recited in amended claims 15 and 20.

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claims 15 and 20, respectively, share their presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-17, 20-24, 29-31, and 33 and allowance of these claims are thus respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

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Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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